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TO AMEMBASSY BUJUMBURA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY INFO AMEMBASSY KAMPALA PRIORITY AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

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BUJUMBURA FOR CHARGE DAR ES SALAAM FOR ARUSHA OBSERVER

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR

TAGS: AMGT RW BY

SUBJECT: OFFICIAL - INFORMAL

- 1. BELOW IS THE TEXT OF THE SITREPS CIRCULATED IN THE DEPARTMENT FOR MAY 23 AND MAY 24. SITREPS ARE CLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL.
- 2. BEGIN TEXT OF SITREPS:

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 STATE 138777 2422422 RWANDA/BURUNDI SITREP MAY 23

SITUATION ON THE GROUND

YESTERDAY, MAY 22, THE RPF TOOK CONTROL OF THE AIRPORT AND THE KANOMBE MILITARY CAMP (THE MOST FORTIFIED GOVERNMENT ARMY POSITION IN THE CAPITAL). AFTER ITS VICTORY, THE RPF AGREED TO A 60 HOUR TRUCE TO ALLOW UN SPECIAL ENVOY IQBAL RIZA OF PAKISTAN TO PURSUE HIS MISSION IN RWANDA. THE TRUCE BEGAN AT 0600 GMT MONDAY UNTIL 1600 GMT TUESDAY. (REUTERS)

A UN FLIGHT LANDED TODAY AT THE KIGALI AIRPORT. THE RPF SAID IT WILL COOPERATE IN ALLOWING UN FLIGHTS TO LAND BUT HEDGED ON WHETHER IT WILL TURN THE AIRPORT OVER COMPLETELY TO THE UN. (AF/C MEETING WITH RPF).

### DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES

THE GOT HAS CANCELLED THE MAY 24 ARUSHA MEETING BECAUSE OF EVENTS IN RWANDA. (DAR ES SALAAM 3204)

THE INTERIM GOVERNMENT RWANDAN FOREIGN MINISTER BICAMUMPAKA SENT A LETTER DATED APRIL 21 TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL ASKING THAT THE SECURITY COUNCIL DENOUNCE AND CONDEMN THE AGGRESSION BY UGANDA, UNDER COVER OF THE RPF, AGAINST RWANDA. HE ALSO CALLED ON UGANDA TO CEASE THIS AGGRESSION BY ABSTAINING FROM PROVIDING MEN AND MATERIAL TO THE RPF. (USUN 2149)

THE CANADIANS ARE MOVING CLOSER TO INCREASING ITS UNAMIR CONFIDENTIAL

#### CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 138777 242242Z CONTINGENT AFTER CERTAIN OPERATIONAL QUESTIONS ARE CLARIFIED IN NY. (OTTAWA 2687)

UNHOR IS CONCERNED ABOUT AN OPERATION BEING CARRIED OUT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES TO TRANSFER 5,400 RWANDANS FROM THE CYANGUGU STADIUM IN THE SOUTH TO A CAMP AT NYARUSHISHI NEAR THE BORDER WITH BURUNDI. THE CAMP IS IN A REMOTE AREA AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES HAVE DENIED RELIEF WORKERS ACCESS TO THE CAMP. UNHOR SAID THAT ON MAY 15, ONE OF 15 BUSES CARRYING SOME RWANDANS FROM THIS SAME STADIUM WAS DIVERTED TO GATANDARA, NEAR THE ZAIRIAN BORDER WHERE 40 MEN WERE TAKEN FROM THE BUS AND KILLED. UNCHR ALSO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCED HAVING RECEIVED REPORTS OF THE RPF COMMITTING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS. (USMISSION GENEVA 4698)

THE RUSSIANS PROVIDED 10 TRUCKS, SPARE PARTS AND COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT TO TANZANIA TO ASSIST IN RWANDAN RELIEF EFFORTS. (FBIS LONDON AF 5579)

## **HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS**

THE RWANDANS TRAPPED AT THE MILLES COLLINES HOTEL IN THE CENTER OF KIGALI SENT A FAX TO THE BELGA NEWS AGENCY

ASKING THAT THEY BE EVACUATED IMMEDIATELY AND THAT SABENA NOT CHARGE THEM FOR THEIR STAY IN THE HOTEL. (REUTERS)

KAMPALA REPORTS THAT THE LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION (LWF)
HAS SUCCEEDED IN STOPPING THE CONTINUED FLOW OF BODIES
INTO LAKE VICTORIA. LWF TEAMS, WORKING ROUND THE CLOCK TO
PREVENT FURTHER BODIES FROM ENTERING LAKE VICTORIA,
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#### CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 STATE 138777 2422422
REPORT THAT THE NUMBER OF BODIES FLOWING DOWN THE KAGERA
RIVER HAS DIMINISHED TO 35-160 PER DAY. THE MOST RECENT
ASSESSMENT FLIGHT COUNTED 800-1,000 BODIES ON SHORE AND
AN UNDETERMINED NUMBER STILL FREE FLOATING IN THE LAKE.
(KAMPALA 4111)

RWANDA/BURUNDI SITREP MAY 24

SITUATION ON THE GROUND

THE UN BROKERED TRUCE COLLAPSED YESTERDAY. RPF COMMANDER KAGAME BLAMES THE RGF FOR FIRING THE FIRST SHOTS.
GOVERNMENT RADIO ANNOUNCED THAT THE ARMY HAD WITHDRAWN BUT WAS PREPARING A COUNTERATTACK FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL GUARD AND POLICE BARRACKS AND ARMY COMMAND AND STAFF HEADQUARTERS LOCATIONS. UN OFFICIALS COMMENTED THAT THE RGF TROOPS ARE DEMORALIZED AND UNLIKELY TO MOUNT A MAJOR COUNTER-OFFENSIVE. THE UN SPECIAL ENVOY IQBAL RIZA OF PAKISTAN FLEW INTO KIGALI AFTER MEETING WITH THE RPF IN MULINDI YESTERDAY; HIS PLANS TO MEET WITH THE GOR HAVE BEEN PUT ON HOLD TEMPORARILY BECAUSE OF THE RESUMPTION OF FIGHTING. (REUTERS)

## DIPLOMATIC INITIATIVES

BURUNDI'S INTERIM PRESIDENT NTIBANTUNGANYA SAID THAT HE WOULD ALLOW UN FORCES WITH A HUMANITARIAN MANDATE TO STAGE OPERATIONS FROM BURUNDI IF THERE WAS A CEASE FIRE AND ACCEPTANCE BY THE BELLIGERENTS OF THE UN MISSION TO CREATE ZONES OF PROTECTION WITHIN RWANDA FOR THREATENED CIVILIANS. THE BURUNDI MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND THE ARMY CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 05 STATE 138777 242242Z

CHIEF SHARE THE PRESIDENT'S POSITION. THE PRIME MINISTER. HOWEVER, WANTS A MORE NEUTRAL POLICY STANCE ON THE ISSUE, SAYING HE WILL ALLOW BURUNDI TO BE A TRANSIT POINT FOR HUMANITARIAN RELIEF SUPPLIES AND PERSONNEL BUT NOT A BASE OF OPERATION FOR UN TROOPS. (BUJUMBURA 1764)

AMBASSADOR CARSON DEMARCHED THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT URGING THEM TO STOP ALL ARMS SHIPMENTS TO THE RPF. THE UGANDAN FOREIGN MINISTER SAID THE UGANDAN GOVERNMENT COMPLETELY SUPPORTED THE ARMS EMBARGO AND HAD NEVER OFFICIALLY

BACKED THE RPF EFFORT IN RWANDA.

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(KAMPALA 4160)

THE PRIME MINISTER OF TANZANIA SAID THAT MOBUTU WAS THE REASON THE REGIONAL SUMMIT AT ARUSHA WAS CANCELLED. MOBUTU REPORTEDLY SAID THAT HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE RWANDAN PEACE PROCESS AND REFUSED TO GO ANYWHERE OTHER THAN THE SUMMIT HE CONVENED AT GOMA. BOTH UGANDAN PRESIDENT MUSEVENI AND KENYAN PRESIDENT MOI HAD RESERVATIONS ABOUT MOBUTU'S CHAIRING A REGIONAL SUMMIT IN GOMA. (DAR ES SALAAM 3245)

SRSG BOOH-BOOH IN A PRESS CONFERENCE IN CAMEROON DEFENDED HIS RECORD AND BLAMED UNAMIR'S "MEAGER RESULTS" ON BAD FAITH BETWEEN THE GOR AND RPF. BOOH-BOOH CLAIMS THAT NEITHER SIDE EVER HAD ANY INTENTION OF IMPLEMENTING THE ARUSHA ACCORDS. (YAOUNDE 4760)

THE ITALIAN GOVERNMENT SAYS IT IS WILLING TO SEND TROOPS TO RWANDA. (ROME 8296)

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 06

STATE

138777 2422422

**HUMANITARIAN EFFORTS** 

THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR GLOBAL AFFAIRS WIRTH COMMENDED ICRC FOR ITS STAYING PRESENCE IN RWANDA. IN DISCUSSING THE SITUATION IN RWANDA, THE ICRC DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS TOLD WIRTH THAT THE MASSACRES IN RWANDA WOULD CONTINUE UNLESS MILITARY ACTION WAS TAKEN.

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THE ICRC CHIEF OF OPERATIONS WARNS THAT GITARAMA COULD BE A MAJOR TARGET FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF KILLINGS. 25,000 PEOPLE INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THE RWANDAN GOVERNMENT HAVE TAKEN REFUGE IN THIS CITY TO THE SOUTHWEST OF KIGALI. (STATE 136854)

RELIEF WORKERS IN SOUTHERN RWANDA ESTIMATE 200,000 DISPLACED PERSONS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE SOUTH OF BUTARE. DELIVERY OF FOOD AND MEDICINES TO SOUTHERN RWANDA ARE LIMITED BECAUSE OF THE GENERAL LEVEL OF INSECURITY IN THE AREA. RELIEF WORKERS CALL FOR RAPID DEPLOYMENT OF UN TROOPS TO ORGANIZE THE EVACUATIONS OF THREATENED CIVILIANS TO SAFER AREAS AND FACILITATE RELIEF EFFORTS IN THE SOUTH. (BUJUMBURA 1754)

UNHCR ESTIMATES ONLY 62,000 OF AN ORIGINAL BURUNDI REFUGEE POPULATION OF 260,000 REMAIN IN RWANDA. ALL RETURNEES ARE BEING ASSISTED BY WFP AND NGOS. RWANDAN CONFIDENTIAL

### CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 07 STATE 138777 242242Z
REFUGEES NOW ARRIVING IN RWANDA AT A RATE OF 500 PER DAY
ARE DRAWING ON RESOURCES ORIGINALLY PROGRAMMED FOR
BURUNDI RETURNEES. THE MOST CRITICAL PROBLEMS FOR THESE
REFUGEES ARE FOOD AND DYSENTERY. (BUJUMBURA 1784)

A UNICEF DOCTOR REPORTED 7,000 DISPLACED IN 5 OFFICIAL LOCATIONS IN CYANGUGU IN SOUTHERN RWANDA AND AN UNSPECIFIED NUMBER IN OTHER LOCATIONS NEARBY. MOST OF THE DISPLACED ARE TERRORIZED BY THE MILITIA WHO CARRY OUT SUMMARY EXECUTIONS ON A DAILY BASIS. THE ONLY RELIEF CURRENTLY BEING PROVIDED TO THESE AT RISK POPULATIONS IS BY A 4 REPEAT 4 PERSON ICRC TEAM. (BUJUMBURA 1785)

END TEXT OF SITREPS CHRISTOPHER

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